

For immediate release
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MILKA DUNO – PROFESSIONAL RACE CAR DRIVER TO VISIT DES MOINES AND SPEAK TO YOUTH
Duno in Iowa to Compete in IndyCar Series Iowa Corn Indy 250

DES MOINES – The Iowa Department of Human Rights is proud to present an opportunity for youth to meet with Venezuelan race car driver Milka Duno at Grand View University (Viking Theatre) in Des Moines on Friday, June 18th at 10a.m. This event is free and open to the public. She will be available for questions and autographs.

Milka Duno is visiting Iowa to compete on Sunday, June 20 at Iowa Speedway in Newton for the Iowa Corn Indy 250. Milka became the first Venezuelan athlete to be inducted into the Latin American International Sports Hall of Fame at their 35th Anniversary Induction Ceremony in January 2010.

In addition to being one of the world's most successful female race car drivers, Milka is also a qualified Naval Engineer with four master's degrees - in Organizational Development, Naval Architecture, Aquaculture and Maritime Business – earning the last three degrees simultaneously. While working as a Naval Engineer, Milka was invited by a friend to participate in a Porsche Driving Clinic. The rest, as they say - is history. Captivated by the precision and mechanics of motorsports, Milka instantly realized that racing stimulated her passion for challenge and competition. She quickly discovered that she was meant to be a race car driver.

Six years ago Milka created the “Milka Way” Program - whose mission it is to inspire children and students to “Aim for the Stars” and achieve academic excellence. Milka has taken this message to children and students at all school levels around the world to help inspire and motivate them and help them understand the importance of education – and how a strong academic background will benefit them their entire life – in all aspects of their life – and in any career they choose.

For more information, please contact Melissa Esquivel at melissa.esquivel@iowa.gov or 515-281-4080.

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